



Dear Sir

We are writing in response to the Warrington Local Plan Review. Whilst acknowledging the right for everyone to have a decent home, we also believe that those of us who live in Moore, having chosen a village environment, have the right to continue to do so. The published plans, if adopted, would significantly alter our village environment and thus deny us that right.

### **Valuing the Local Environment**

- The natural assets of the area around Moore are enjoyed by many people all year round and have been for hundreds of years. Fidler's Ferry ran from Penketh (from 1160 until the 1920's), across the Mersey to Halton Moss. It was considered to be a good day out to go from Penketh to the '*cool and shady lanes overhanging and fragrant with scent of the wild roses and luscious clusters of big grannie blackberries*' on the Cheshire side of the river.
- There is a wide network of footpaths much used by walkers (including the Ramblers, U3A, Probus, Women's Institutes and of course local individuals and families). To the north is a route down on to Halton Moss and the River Mersey - a popular spot for birdwatchers as well. To the south is a route up to Darsbury village and on to Halton and beyond. To the east is a path along the canal to Stockton Heath. To the west is a path to Water's Meeting at Preston Brook. All of these routes, each about 4 miles or more, take walkers through uninterrupted farmland and open spaces. Your plans will destroy the northern and eastern routes forever. It is one of the few areas locally where horse riders can enjoy quiet lanes and bridle paths.
- Many groups of cyclists ride through our quiet village rather than using the main roads. Increased traffic resulting from 2000 new homes in the area, will increase the likelihood of accidents and reduce their enjoyment.
- The canal through the village is part of the Cheshire Ring. This rural section provides a respite from the route as it goes through towns.
- New houses will inevitably increase the flow of traffic through the village. We have serious concerns about the safety of both people and buildings. The railway bridge at the junction of Runcorn Road with Moss Lane, is a difficult section, with two right-angled bends. The parapet of the bridge has been knocked down several times, once just recently, and it is fortunate that no vehicle has crashed through on to the railway below. Halton council installed speed humps as there were concerns about the consequences of speeding vehicles through the village. Two canal bridges have had their parapets knocked into the canal in the past couple of years through careless driving.

### **Loss of Green Belt**

- One of the main purposes of green belt is to 'prevent neighbouring towns from merging into one another'. Your proposed plans contravene this by building houses right up to the eastern boundary of the village. This would create an almost continuous, built-up area between Halton and Warrington.
- This area of green belt was created to prevent Runcorn and Warrington from merging into each other when plans were made for the two New Towns.
- Land that currently produces food crops would be destroyed.
- Grazing for horses would be lost.
- Open spaces would be taken away from villagers and visitors to Moore - many of whom come from Warrington of course!

## Historic Nature of the Village

- Moore has almost 900 years of history. The first recorded mention of Moore was during the reign of Richard from 1157-1199. Roger de Lacy, the 7<sup>th</sup> Baron of Halton and Constable of Cheshire, gave his brother Richard, the township of Moor, together with an annuity of 6s per year.
- Moore has 14 listed buildings.
- During a planning consultation some years ago, Halton BC decided that the track from the village that leads up towards Daresbury was probably used by the monks of Norton Priory during the 12th to 16th centuries.
- The village is one of just a handful of villages in the area that has such a rich heritage. This must not be destroyed.
- Another similar area is Lower Walton. Your plans for housing would similarly affect the Old School, Porch House Farm and Cockfight Cottages which lie between the main village of Lower Walton and Moore.

## Warrington Waterfront

- Moore Nature Reserve was created to mitigate the effects of the waste tip at Arpley. The proposals for the waterfront development will destroy much of this.
- It is an important area for birds - wintering ducks, summer visitors and our resident species. Similarly, it provides a habitat for flora that is uncommon in Cheshire - small pockets of heathland. The ranger will be able to provide specific details.
- The Nature Reserve is an important area for leisure activities - it is a proven fact that access to green spaces improves mental health.
- It appears from the plans that access to the reserve from our village will be impeded by the waterfront development. If so, then that will further limit our ability to enjoy our local natural environment.

We always seek to protect the built and natural assets of the area in which we have chosen to live. We believe that it is our right that while we continue to live here we can expect the rural character of our environment to remain unchanged. Yes, more houses need to be built to accommodate our rising population and raised expectations of the environments in which people live. But this should not be to the detriment to what is already in place.

Moore and its green belt must continue to provide a buffer zone between the conurbations of Halton and Warrington in order to protect its natural environment and heritage and continue to provide its residents with the semi-rural life that they chose by living in the village.

Thank you for your consideration

Yours sincerely

